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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

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1. In the above referenced Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 14 under 35 USC § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Maffezzoni (U.S. Patent No. 6,901,493); and claims 2-3 and 15 under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Maffezzoni (U.S. Patent No. 6,901,493) in view of Hong (U.S. Patent No. 6,815,311). In addition, the Examiner objected to claims 16-18 based on informalities. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 6-13 and the indication that claims 4-5 and 16-18 are allowable.

Claims 1-4, 6-15, and 17-18 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 14, and 17-18 have been amended. Claims 5 and 16 have been cancelled. The rejections above have been traversed and, as such, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the allowability of claims 1-4, 6-15, and 17-18.

2. As discussed above, Claims 16-18 were rejected based on informalities. Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out these informalities and suggesting specific corrections. These corrections have been made to claims 17-18 (claim 16 has been cancelled) and Applicant respectfully requests that this basis for rejection be removed.

3. As discussed above, claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Maffezzoni (U.S. Patent No. 6,901,493). Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 5 and claim 5 has been cancelled. While claims 2-3 were rejected under 35 USC §

103 (a) as being unpatentable over Maffezzoni (U.S. Patent No. 6,901,493) in view of Hong (U.S. Patent No. 6,815,311), this basis of rejection is negated by the amendments to claim 1 and the fact that claims 2 and 3 depend therefrom.

For these reasons, Applicant believes that claim 1 and claims 2-4 that depend therefrom, are patentably distinct from the prior art.

4. As discussed above, claim 14 was rejected under 35 USC § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Maffezzoni (U.S. Patent No. 6,901,493). Claim 14 has been amended to include the subject matter drawn from allowable claim 16 and claim 16 has been cancelled. When amending claim 14 in concert with claim 16, Applicant has not included the subject matter from intervening claim 15, since this subject matter does not appear to be required for patentability. While claim 15 was rejected under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Maffezzoni (U.S. Patent No. 6,901,493) in view of Hong (U.S. Patent No. 6,815,311), this basis of rejection is negated by the amendments to claim 14 and the fact that claim 15 depends therefrom.

For these reasons, Applicant believes that claim 14 and claims 15, and 17-18 that depend therefrom, are patentably distinct from the prior art.

For the foregoing reasons, the applicant believes that claims 1-4, 6-15, and 17-18 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be passed to allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile if the Examiner believes that such a communication would advance the prosecution of the present invention.

A petition for three-month extension of time and a credit card payment form for the corresponding fee accompany this response. No additional fees are due. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that are required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2126 (SIG000104).

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

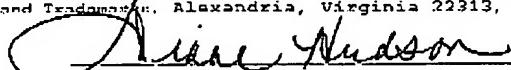
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to fax number (571) 273-8300 addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Alexandria, Virginia 22313, on the date below:

12/07/2006

Date



Diane Hudson
Signature